FLINT WORK.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—In my last to you, I described how walls were constructed with mud, presuming it would be interesting to those who have not seen buildings put up with any thing but stone and brick (and I know there are many); in this I am influenced by the same motives, *i. e.* of giving information to those who are hundreds of miles off, how we construct our buildings, and the materials we use, and again, that others may do the same. What a fund of practical information might be gained by such a course, and how useful it would be to those who have to seek the country over for employment. Many will be deterred from doing so, from not using themselves to any thing of the sort, and the fear of committing mistakes; to those I would say, fear not, do your best; should we commit errors in our descriptions, we are sure to be corrected by our editor, and how pleasant to be corrected by those who are "zealously burning" for our welfare.

Flints are very plentiful in this part, the soil is thickly strewed with them; this plentiful supply we take advantage of in constructing walls. Those found on the surface and in the soil are not so good as those got from the chalk, on account of being disfigured in colour by some chemical action, and rather shaky, and generally too small. About two years ago, a friend of mine was in search of employment, and hearing of my being in this quarter, came to see me; I was having at the time flints used in walling; not having before seen any flint but in a tinder-box or on the lock of a gun, he said, evidently with the feeling of giving me a valuable suggestion, "Mr. F., this flint appears to be a prime material for outside work, as it may be considered imperishable and impervious to the weather, but I think it would be much better if you could contrive some means of getting it in large blocks, thereby avoiding so much labour in setting, and fewer joints." My friend was labouring under the impression that flint was got from quarries, the same as stone. I explained to him that flints are got when digging in the chalk; that they are found in detached pieces, and that we seldom find one, when worked, that would be more than six or eight inches square. When they are found, they have a sort of white enamel on them about a quarter of an inch thick, and they are in all kinds of shapes; sometimes they occur in veins or strata like a string course, six or seven feet apart, but still detached. The chalk in this neighbourhood in which they are embedded is about six hundred feet deep!

My friend seemed somewhat astonished at my explanation of how we came at our flints, then felt somewhat curious to know how they came there; but I could not inform him. I recollect reading an essay on flint, which attempted to prove that they had been fish; and have heard a geologist of some note say they have been sponges; how they have originated I cannot tell.

The process of working flints, in preparing them fitted for use is simple, though it requires some practice, on account of their brittleness and liability to break in the wrong place. The first process is to break them with a large hammer, then with a smaller one to square up the pieces; the generality of the larger pieces and those that look the best are about four or five inches long, and the same in depth, so that they course with the bricks when used. A great deal depends upon the cutter of flints, in making flint-work look well, in squaring them up well.

If these humble remarks meet your approval, I will in my next supply a sketch as they appear in the wall. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES FLITCROFT.

Near Stockbridge, Hants, July 30th, 1843.

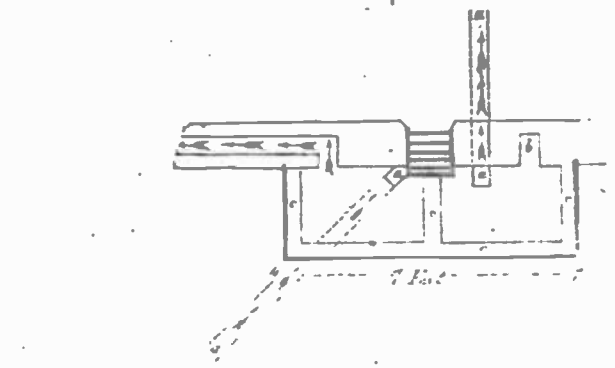
WARMING AND VENTILATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

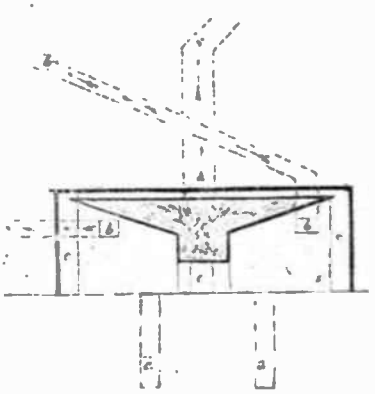
SIR,—I enclose you a sketch of the building mentioned in my letter in THE BUILDER of the 6th May. A jury would certainly decide when they had an example like the building mentioned before their eyes. It is merely work-rooms.

Yours obediently, T. H. C.

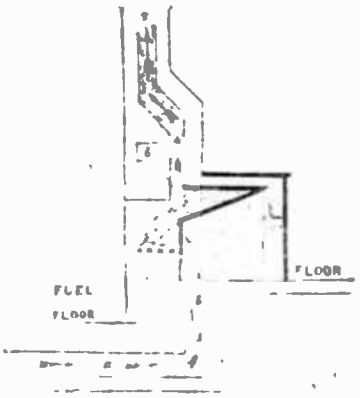
The plan and sections of the hot hearth or stove shew the bottom of grate; the cold air-flues, *a*, entering into what may be called the air-chamber, and the hot-air flues, *b*, passing out; the arrows the current; *c* brickbreadth casing inside the front and end stove-plates and partition; the strong lines the iron-work. It will be perceived there is a plate of iron under the top, to prevent it becoming too hot. S, the smoke-flue, which passes into the gable; one hot-air flue passes under the windows in the wall at F, ground plan, and as shewn in the section, from thence over the window and door, in the wall between the staircase and work-room, and back in the wall, G, and continues a separate flue up the gable. The other hot-air flue passes over the windows, without any outlet, into the room below, and back just over the floor, with a ventilator into each small room, and so on a separate flue up the gable. The small rooms are divided by quarter partitions, lighted each with a skylight. There are ventilators in the ceiling and roof. This, in summer, is used to ventilate the building with cold air, the drying stove not being required.



Plan of Stove.



Section.



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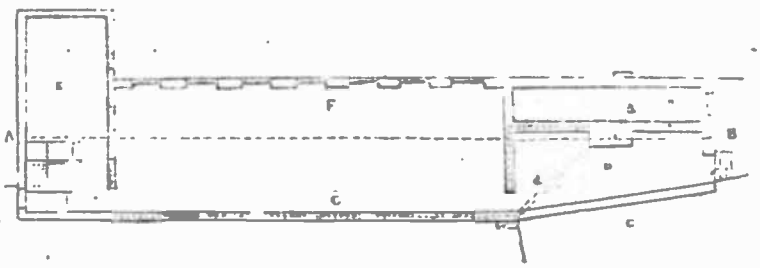
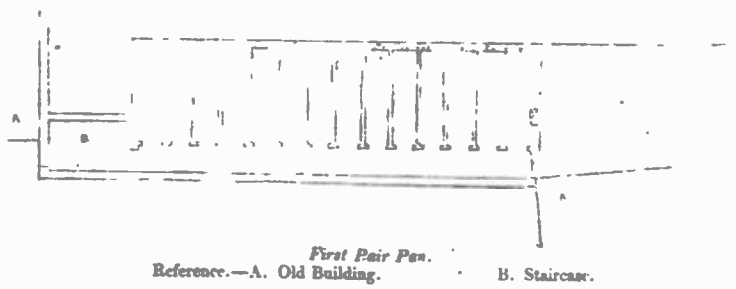


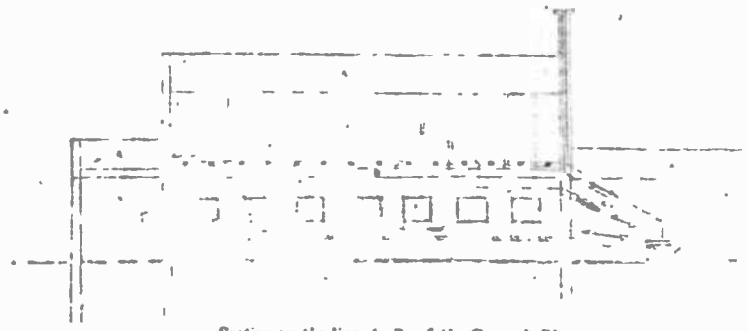
Ground Plan.

Reference.—A. and C. Old Building. D. Drying-room. H. Fuel-room.
B. Yard. E. Overlooker. F.G. Large Work-room.



First Pair Plan.

Reference.—A. Old Building. B. Staircase.



Section on the line A. B. of the Ground Plan.

A. A. Roof. B. Floor. C. Above it the Smoke-flue.

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